REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawl of the outstanding rejections.

Attached hereto is a second Declaration of inventor Juergen Rabe showing that none of Jakob (U.S. 2002/0127168), EP 459,625 or EP 623,553 disclose coated sodium percarbonate particles as presently claimed and explaining why these references do not suggest the presently claimed coated sodium percarbonate particles.

Applicants' claims relate to coated sodium percarbonate particles comprising a sodium percarbonate core surrounded by at least one coating layer, the coating layer comprising one inorganic coating material, the coated particles having a content of available oxygen of at least 3 % by weight, and being fizzy to such an extent that 2 g of the coated particles dissolved in 50 ml of water at 20°C generate more than 0.4 ml of gas after 2 min. In his Declaration inventor Rabe has included data from experiments conducted under conditions that provide the invention coated sodium percarbonate particles and under conditions described in Jakob, EP 459,625 and EP 623,553. As shown in the Declaration, Jakob, EP 459,625 and EP 623,553 do not provide the claimed coated sodium percarbonate particles that, e.g. are fizzy to such an extent that 2 g of the coated particles dissolved in 50 ml of water at 20°C generate more than 0.4 ml of gas after 2 min, a property important in detergent compositions (see, e.g., specification page 1).

As noted at paragraph 7 of the attached Declaration, Jakob broadly suggests a treatment time of as short as 2 min at 70-120°C, more preferably 80 or 85-95 °C for 5 to 60 min. See paragraph [0046] of Jakob. However, and as shown in the Table attachced to Dr. Rabe's Declaration, heat treatment in a fluidized bed for even 15 min at 90 °C shows **no** fizzyness. Treatment at 90 °C for 60 min also shows no fizzyness, while treatment at 100 °C for 60 min shows a fizzyness of only 0.2ml, as opposed to the presently claimed lower limit

of 0.4 ml. This is a full 100% difference. As Dr. Rabe explains, treatment at a temperature as low as 70 °C or 80 °C, or even 85 °C, as discussed and suggested in Jakob, would show similarly poor results and would not provide a coated sodium percarbonate particle with a fizzyness of 0.4 ml. Thus, the treatments suggested by Jakob, and the Examples in Table 1 at paragraph [0054] thereof, do not disclose, or direct one of ordinary skill in this art to, coated sodium percarbonate particles as claimed herein.[1]

With regard to EP 459 625, Examples 1-4 thereof heat sodium percarbonate at 50-70 °C for approximately 45 min, while Example 5 heats at 91-100 °C and Example 6 heats at 40-50 °C for the same time period. As shown in the attached Declaration, such treatment at these temperatures and for these times would not produce a coated sodium percarbonate particle with a fizzyness of 0.4 ml, as claimed. See, for example, the 45 minute treatment data in the Table attached to the Declaration for both 90 and 100 °C showing nonexistent or very low (i.e., 0.1 ml) fizzyness, noting further that fizzyness decreases with decreasing treatment times and temperatures. Thus, the treatments suggested by EP 459 625, and the Examples therein, do not disclose, or direct one of ordinary skill in this art to, coated sodium percarbonate particles as claimed herein.

With regard to EP 623 553, the reference discloses heating sodium percarbonate at approximately 75 °C for approximately 45 min - 2 hrs. However, and as shown in the attached Declaration, treatment at this temperature and for these times would not produce a coated sodium percarbonate particle with a fizzyness of 0.4 ml, as claimed. See, for example, the 45 and 120 minute treatment data at 90 °C (which is a temperature much higher than that

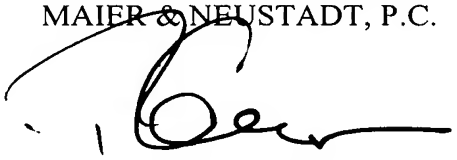
[1] With regard to the Examiner's comment at page 10, top, of the Official Action regarding an alleged similarity between Jakob's heat treatment conditions and those described in present claims 18 and 19, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the fact that Claims 18 and 19 each depend separately from claim 17 and further limit only one of described time or temperature variables within the confines of the Claim 17 process, which must, in all cases, produce the particles as claimed in Claim 12. As explained above and shown in the attached Declaration, the heat treatment conditions in Jakob do not disclose or suggest the particles as claimed in Claim 12 or a process for their production.

used in EP 623 553 favoring fizzyness) , in the Table attached to the Declaration showing nonexistent fizzyness after 2 min (90 °C) or only 0.1 ml after 2 hr (120 minutes), noting further that fizzyness decreases with decreasing treatment temperature. Thus, the treatments suggested by EP 623 553, and the Examples therein, do not disclose or direct one of ordinary skill in this art to coated sodium percarbonate particles as claimed herein.

Accordingly, and in view of the above remarks and the attached Declaration showing that none of Jakob (U.S. 2002/0127168), EP 459,625 or EP 623,553 disclose coated sodium percarbonate particles as presently claimed and explaining why these references do not suggest the presently claimed coated sodium percarbonate particles. Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and the passage of this case to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Richard L. Treanor
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 36,379

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)